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## Aruban John Henriquez...ready for 2012 London Olympic

John Henriquez began lifting weights back in 1992 together with Junior Faro, who also guided Aruba's Hugo Themen. John practised back then in the Noord Sport Centrum. John participated in various international championships and broke various Aruban records.

He also won medals in tournaments such as the Copa Criollo, Ibero-American International and in Copa Simon Bolivar. In 1998 John got the opportunity to participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games which



took place in Maracaibo, Venezuela. In 1999 he participated in the Pan-American Games which took place in Winnipeg, Canada. While in 2010, John participated in South American Games in Medellin, Colombia.

In local championships, John broke the record of one of our legendary weight

lifters in Aruba, Alejandro Patan Farro, in the super heavyweight category. John continued to compete in all local championships, such as the Copa Betico Croes, Hymno y Bandera Tournament, Aña di La Reina Tournament, ASU Olimpiada and Campeon Nacional.

**Continued on pg 4**

## Obama delay 'unacceptable': Syrian opposition



**A Syrian woman sits with her grandson outside a damaged building on the main street of the Syrian village of Treimsa**

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama must not wait until his reelection bid is resolved to take action to stop the slaughter of thousands in Syria, the head of the main Syrian opposition group said Sunday.

"We would like to say to President Obama that waiting for election day to make the right decision on Syria is unacceptable for Syrians,"

Abdel Basset Sayda, president of the Syria National Council, told CNN.

"We cannot understand that a superpower ignores the killing of tens of thousands of Syrian civilians because of an election campaign that a president may win or lose."

Obama, waging a tough domestic battle ahead of the November 6 election, has demanded Syrian President

Bashar al-Assad stand down and offered logistical support to the opposition, but his administration has ruled out using force.

International efforts to squeeze Assad by isolating his regime and seeking sanctions against his inner circle have been frustrated by Russian and Chinese opposition at the UN Security Council.

Speaking to CNN's Fareed Zakaria from Istanbul, Turkey, after the alleged massacre of more than 150 people in one of the bloodiest episodes of Syria's 16-month uprising, Sayda said it was imperative world leaders took action now.

"If it continues like this, it will lead to the explosion of everything in the Middle East. It will threaten the security and the peace of the region and even the world. For this reason, everybody must move before it is too late," he said, speaking through a translator.

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## New UN campaign against organised crime

VIENNA (AFP) - The UN's drugs and crime office will aim to show the threat posed by the multi-billion dollar global organised crime trade with a new media awareness campaign that launches on Monday.

International crime rackets pull in an estimated annual turnover of \$870 billion (710 billion euros) according to UNODC, a figure equal to 1.5 percent of global GDP.

The illicit funds are worth more than six times the amount of money put aside for development.

The multimedia campaign aims to draw attention to the scale and huge sums involved in organised crime, which covers everything from drug and arms trafficking to cyber crime to the smuggling of migrants.

"Transnational organised crime reaches into every region and every country across the world. Stopping this transnational threat represents one of the international community's greatest global challenges," said Yuri Fedotov, executive director of the Vienna-based agency.

Drug trafficking, by far the most lucrative trade for criminals, is worth \$320 billion (260 billion euros) per year while counterfeiting of

goods brings in \$250 billion (204 billion euros).

Around 1 percent of the world's medicines are thought to be counterfeit, according to the World Health Organisation, a figure which rises to up to 30 percent in parts of Asia, Africa and South America.

The combined cost of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants totals an estimated \$39 billion (32 billion euros) a year while trading of ivory and animal parts generates \$3.5 billion (2.8 billion euros) in criminal revenue.

But it also the "human cost" of crime that the UN wants to highlight.

Around 2.4 million people are victims of human trafficking at any one time, UNODC says, while drug-related violence and counterfeit medicines endanger millions of lives.

"Crime groups can destabilise countries and entire regions, underlining development assistance in those areas and increasing domestic corruption, extortion, racketeering and violence," said UNODC in a statement.

The campaign will go out on Twitter, Facebook and the social networking site Google+ as well as on the dedicated site [www.unodc.org/toc](http://www.unodc.org/toc).

## Donny Rasmijn: Study on Urirama Wind Park turbines contains valuable information

At the last Green Energy Conference held here last October, the government of Aruba announced their plans to erect a wind turbine park at the Urirama location to generate more clean energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. One month later, in November, President of Parliament, Paul Croes and fellow Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn visited the location upon the invitation of concerned residents who are afraid the park will be erected too close to their homes.

The residents pointed out the potential health hazards of such a project. They also pointed out the damage it would cause to the beautiful view everyone enjoys at the site. Based on the concerns of these citizens, they prepared a list of questions for the Minister of the Environment, Benny Sievinger, to answer.

During the presentation of the budget for 2012, the AVP division in Parliament submitted a motion urging the government to conduct a study of the effects of the wind park turbines within the context of reports from "Rijksinstituut for Public Health en Milieu" (RIVM): "Wind turbines: influence on the life and health of surrounding citizens," and other similar reports. They also urged the government to stipulate their standpoint on an acceptable sound level for homes in the vicinity. In the Netherlands the sound level is 40 decibels. The motion was approved by the 21 members of Parliament. Last



Monday Parliament received a copy of the final report on the social and environmental effects, which report contains valuable information for the citizens of Urirama, according to Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn.

Parliament also conducted an encounter with representatives of the inhabitants near the Urirama area, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation, with WEB Aruba N.V., Vader Piet Management N.V. and with KEMA, which is the organization contracted to do the research of the effects.

Vader Piet Management and KEMA also organized a public encounter to present and explain the results of their findings. The major criticism was that they failed to give sufficient consideration to the sound of the wind turbines which would become a nuisance to the inhabitants. Nor did they take into ac-

count the distance of the turbines from residents and from the Kapel di Alto Vista. According to Rasmijn, in the recently published KEMA report, all of these matters were addressed, all the points brought up by Parliament which were included in their unanimously approved motion.

They also took into consideration those issues raised by inhabitants during the encounter at the Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation. The final report regarding the effects contains valuable information on the social and environmental impact. It contains the different changes that will be made such as regarding the distance between the turbines and where they specify would be the best location to minimize the sound even below the norms of Holland, Denmark and Europe.

Hence, according to Rasmijn, the sound should not pose a problem for the residents of the area. He claims that Parliament has scrutinized and will continue to scrutinize the project to ensure that the perceived positive aspects would be in balance with the effects this may have for the residents of Urirama and visitors to the Alto Vista Chapel. For those interested in reading the KEMA report, please visit the following link: [http://www.issuu.com/juanrarausquin/docs/seia\\_urirama\\_main\\_body](http://www.issuu.com/juanrarausquin/docs/seia_urirama_main_body)

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## Minister de Meza signals the need for better internal communication structure!



After his meeting with the union of employees (UEA) at N.V. Elmar, Minister Mike de Meza indicated that he would prefer not to get involved in the dispute so as to allow the necessary space for them to work internally on a better management of discussions and disagreements, a better internal communication structure that would guarantee that communication would be organized and well structured so as to achieve a consensus.

On account of a hectic schedule, the Minister was unable to meet with the union

earlier, but a meeting did take place last Thursday. De Meza held talks with the president of the UEA as well as with the Director of ELMAR. Each explained at what stage the negotiations were and what are the "bottle necks" in the discussions.

After an analysis, which is being conducted, the Minister will again meet with both parties to come up with a structure to determine how to treat this impasse, and to decide on a method for future deliberations when such situations arise.

The Minister remarked

that, "it is imperative that any state-owned company must create a positive relationship structure between management, employees and the union so that problems can be resolved." This, he said is beneficial not only for the employees and management, but that it also serves the interest of the general public.

The Minister observed that salaries of employees of the water and electric companies are relatively small in proportion to the overall costs. With respect to the electricity tariff, according to de Meza, employee salaries are only 2 or 3 cents of the total price of the KWh, which is currently 53 cents.

In de Meza's opinion, an increase in salaries will not necessarily result in an increase in the tariff of water and electricity. However, this must be carefully analyzed before any decision is made, says de Meza. But, he emphasized, it is imperative that they reach an agreement and solve this conflict.

## Fight against Lionfish continues: attend Wednesday's lecture

A very interesting lecture on Lionfish is scheduled for Wednesday July 18th at the Holiday Inn Resort from 7:30 to 8:30pm. The general public is invited to attend this very informative lecture to learn about the dangers and threat of this invasive species known as the "Lionfish."

Topics to be covered in the lecture are:

- \* The invasive Lionfish species, family of the well-known "Scorpion fish"



- \* Learn about their habitat
- \* The morphology of the Lionfish
- \* The poison of the Lionfish
- \* What part of the Lionfish penetrates, and what is the effect of its poison?
- \* How fast and how much does it reproduce?

- \* The consequences on our marine life and ecological system

- \* Their eating habits
- \* Impact on the fish population

- \* Consequences for our reefs and tourism

- \* How to combat the problems caused by the Lionfish

- \* Experiences of a Lionfish hunter

The lecture will be facilitated by Shannon Rollock and Jair Britten. The presentation and lecture is under the guidance and technical assistance of the Aruba Reef Care Foundation and the Aruba Marine Park Foundation.

The organizers are grateful to the Holiday Inn Beach Resort for the use of their Cadushi Room where the lecture will be held. The problem of the Lionfish is very big for our island because the Lionfish does not have a natural enemy and is causing major damage to our ecological system.

This is why you need to come out and learn about the Lionfish. Especially those working with or managing water sports need this information.



## S.Africa's Dlamini-Zuma elected to AU top job



ADDIS ABABA (AFP) - South Africa's Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma won a tight fought vote to become the new head of the African Union Commission, the first woman to hold the post, African leaders said.

She beat the incumbent, Jean Ping of Gabon, in a closely fought election over several rounds of voting.

"Now we have the African Union chair Madam Zuma, who will preside over the destiny of this institution," Benin's president and current AU chairman Thomas Boni Yayi said.

Dlamini-Zuma, 63, an experienced diplomat, is a veteran of the fight against apartheid. A doctor by training, she has served as health, interior and foreign minister in South Africa.

Her former husband, South African President Jacob Zuma, was one of the first to offer his congratulations after the vote at the AU summit in the Ethiopian capital.

"It means a lot for Africa... for the continent, unity and the empowerment of women -- very important," Zuma said.

Dlamini-Zuma's win follows her challenge six months ago to unseat Ping, the former commission chairman, which ended in deadlock after neither won the required two-thirds of the vote, leaving Ping in the post.

"She's a freedom fighter, not a bureaucrat or a diplomat," said Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, beaming enthusiastically.

Nouredine Mezni, spokesperson for the outgoing chairman told AFP that Ping had acknowledged defeat.

He "has accepted the results of the elections and wishes Madame Dlamini-Zuma the very best."

"He expressed his readiness to cooperate with her to work together for the unity of the continent."

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## Aruba says goodbye to an avid lover of local folklore, music and culture: Maria Boekhoudt



Maria is seen at left back, posing with her dance group

Maria "Chia" Boekhoudt's lovely smile and "Caha di Orgel" (musical box) tunes will be missed forever. Maria, born June 16, 1928, began her music career playing the "Caha di Orgel" at the age of 10. The musical box, dubbed "El Purfiado" was owned by her father, Alfonso "Fon" Boekhoudt. As a dedicated mother, Maria passed on her interest and love for music to her family, children, grand and great grand children.

Her music box, "Solitaria" participated in the weekly Bon Bini Festivals since 1990 and at many other occasions. In addition to her Music Box, in 1999 Maria also started a dance group, "Nos Folklore" and performed locally and in Bonaire.

In 1988 Maria received

special recognition for her participation in a music box festival at the Casi Bari Pink Patio. She also received recognition for her Caha di Orgel "Solitaria" at the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Bon Bini Festival.

Maria is the composer of various musical items for the cylinder of the Caha di Orgel (musical box). She was known to pluck music on her violin to inspire her brother Alfonso "Buchi" Boekhoudt to write pieces for the cylinder of the musical box.

Maria was a very gifted musician; she played various instruments, such as the "Caha di Orgel," the Wiri (metal percussion instrument) the Violin, Mandolin, Guitar and the Cuarta.

Last Mother's Day, May 13th was the last time that Maria played her Caha di Orgel "Solitaria" before she became ill. Many of us will miss Maria's smile



and the lovely melody from her musical box.

With the passing of Maria Boekhoudt, Aruba has lost another stalwart of our music and folklore.

Maria was laid to rest this past Saturday.

The Director, Mr. Dumfries, Staff and personnel of the Department of Culture of Aruba, extend their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of "Chia."

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## On our way to London... Aruban John Henriquez...ready for 2012 London Olympic Games



John continued to train faithfully during his over 20 years in weight lifting. John has a national record in the snatch 130.5kg, clean and jerk 170kg and total 300.5kg.

For his participation for the 2012 London Olympic Games, we asked John a few questions about his preparations.

1. How is it going with your preparations, John?

It is going very well, although I only learned just recently from the international federation that they are giving me the opportunity to represent Aruba at the Olympic Games in London.

My coach Hugo Themen is training me extensively for this much desired competition.

2. What will it be like for you to represent Aruba at the Olympic Games?

In one simple word...an HONOR for me. Like they say, this will be the cherry on the cake of my career as a weight lifter. Ever since I was 13 years of age I have been practicing this sport and I have competed at various big competitions abroad, among others: championships and South American games, Central American and Pan American and now an Olympics,



which is the highest of them all in which an athlete can compete. For me this is a dream come true!

3. What can Aruba expect from John Henriquez at the 2012 London Olympic Games?

You can expect the very best as an athlete in London, competing against the very best in the world. I will do my utmost best to represent my Dushi island, Aruba.

## Obama refuses to apologize for Romney attacks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama refused to apologize Sunday for accusing Mitt Romney of outsourcing jobs while in charge of Bain Capital, a charge his Republican opponent has dismissed as "false."

The US presidential race has taken an acrimonious turn in the past week as the wealthy Republican candidate endures a Democratic onslaught over the Bain issue and for squirreling many of his millions away in offshore tax havens.

Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, called Friday for an apology for the intensifying character assassination by the Obama campaign and said personal attacks against him were "beneath the dignity of the presidency."

"We won't be apologizing," Obama said, according to the transcript of an interview with a local Virginia TV station airing Sunday.

"Mr Romney claims he's Mr Fix-It for the economy because of his business experience, so I think voters entirely, legitimately want to know what is exactly his

business experience."

The manner in which Romney acquired his fortune at the helm of Bain, the Boston-based investment firm he founded, has emerged as a major issue during this campaign as Obama tries to paint him as out of touch with ordinary Americans before the November vote.

Romney maintains he quit the day-to-day running of Bain in February 1999 and was not making the decisions when companies it worked with subsequently laid off US workers and "outsourced" jobs to plants in Mexico and China.

But a Boston Globe report on Thursday revealed that filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission still listed him as Bain's chief executive between 1999 and 2003.

"As the head of a private equity firm his job was to maximize profits and help investors. There is nothing wrong with that," Obama said in his interview with Virginia's WAVY-TV.

"On the other hand that company also was investing in companies that were called by the Washington Post: 'the pioneers of outsourcing.'"



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## International News

### Hand, foot and mouth disease kills 112 in China in June

BEIJING (AFP) - A Chinese province urged parents Sunday to seek immediate treatment for children showing symptoms of hand, foot and mouth disease after official figures showed 112 people died from the illness last month.

The disease, which children are especially vulnerable to, also infected more than 381,000 people, the Ministry of Health reported last week.

"The disease incidence rate in June was much higher than

that of last June, which has much to do with the high temperatures this summer," said Liu Fuqiang with the provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The province urged parents and teachers to send children to hospital as soon as they showed symptoms of the disease, including mouth sores, skin rashes or fever.

In June, 34,768 cases were reported and 17 people died from the disease in Hunan, the

statement said.

According to the Ministry of Health, over 460,000 people were infected by the disease in May, leading to 132 deaths.

In recent days, health departments in numerous Chinese provinces and regions, including Gansu, Fujian, Jiangsu and Xinjiang have issued warnings over the outbreak of the disease, state press reports said.

### Arafat's widow to lodge legal complaint over poison claim



ZURICH (AFP) - The widow of Yasser Arafat is to launch legal action in France over claims that the veteran Palestinian leader died of radioactive polonium poisoning, her lawyer said in remarks published Sunday.

"Mrs Arafat has decided to lodge a legal complaint within the month," the Geneva-based lawyer Marc Bonnant told Le Matin Dimanche newspaper.

He said the legal proceedings would be taken in France where Arafat died at a military hospital in 2004.

He said Suha Arafat, who has said she backs exhuming her late husband's remains, would press charges "against persons unknown for poisoning."

The Institute for Radiation Physics in Switzerland, which analysed biological samples

taken from Arafat's personal effects, found "an abnormal quantity" of the lethal radioactive substance polonium, the Al-Jazeera news channel reported in a documentary this month.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and Arafat's widow have reportedly already given their consent for samples to be taken from his remains, which are buried in a mausoleum in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Arafat's nephew Nasser al-Qidwa on Thursday accused Israel of poisoning the veteran leader and called for those responsible to be held accountable.

Polonium is a highly toxic substance which is rarely found outside military and scientific circles.

### Mystery lady again seen with N. Korea's Kim



SEOUL (AFP) - A smartly dressed woman seen with Kim Jong-Un at recent public events was Sunday again shown on state television accompanying the North Korean leader, increasing speculation that she could be his wife.

The short-haired brunette was first shown with Kim earlier this month, but official media has not said who she is and so little is known of the young leader that it is not even clear if he is married.

The latest photos aired by state television show what seems to be the same woman, who is apparently in her 20s or 30s and is wearing a yellow polka-dot dress and chic white jacket.

She is standing close to Kim during a visit to a kindergarten, while other officials stay a few steps behind the pair. It is not clear when the visit took place and it is only the third time she has been shown to the outside world.

The woman was seen grinning while standing immediately behind or next to Kim as he hugged and talked to children in Kyongsang Kindergarten.

There have been suggestions that she might be Kim's younger sister, but South Korea's Yonhap news agency said -- quoting a Seoul government official who declined to be named -- it was "highly likely" the lady was Kim's wife.

"From the protocol point of view, such as this woman's place and table settings, it is highly likely that she's his wife and... (he) must actually be married," said the official quoted by Yonhap.

The woman has been prominent in all photos released by the state, and the latest ones showed top party cadres -- including Kim's powerful uncle Jang Song-Thaek -- largely standing behind the couple.

Believed to be in his late 20s, Kim took over from his late father and longtime ruler Kim Jong-Il after his death last December.

There have been mixed views from analysts as to the identity of the woman.

Some have suggested there is little chance she is the leader's wife because North Korea's first ladies are hardly ever pictured.

But Cheong Seong-Chang, of the South's Sejong Institute, said he was "certain" it was Kim's wife.

"By stressing that Kim Jong-Un was a married man with a wife...the North was trying to create the image of him as a stable leader," he said in a recent report.



**CARACAS** : Venezuelan opposition candidate Henrique Capriles Radonski (C) greets supporters during a campaign rally in Caracas on July 15, 2012.

AFP PHOTO





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## Romney camp defends 'patriotic' Bain exit

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mitt Romney's campaign sought Sunday to neutralize attacks on his business career by framing his decision to leave Bain Capital to save the Salt Lake City Olympics as a bold act of patriotism.

Senior aide Ed Gillespie branded allegations that the White House hopeful oversaw the shipping of American jobs abroad as "baseless" and accused Barack Obama of demeaning the office of the presidency through such attacks.

"He left a life he loved to go to Salt Lake City to save the Olympics for a country he loves more," Gillespie told CNN, hitting back at an increasingly strident attempt at character assassination by the Obama campaign.

"In classic Chicago-style politics, the Obama campaign is trying to make this something sinister. It's not. It's patriotic and it's leadership."

The Obama camp alleges that Romney was still involved in running Bain Capital between 1999 and 2002 when the private equity firm chose to lay off US-based workers and "outsource" those jobs to plants in Mexico and China.

It has also stepped up attacks on the candidate's personal fortune, demanding that he release more tax returns and questioning his decision to keep millions in offshore tax havens like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

An ad released by the Obama campaign on Saturday features Romney's off-key singing of the patriotic anthem "America the Beautiful" interspersed with scathing attacks about Bain and the candidate's hidden money.

The date when Romney left Bain is considered crucial as after 1999 the Boston-based investment firm he founded is said to have increasingly invested in com-

panies that moved jobs abroad, a charge that Gillespie denied.

"I think Americans now know, you have got these baseless charges on moving jobs overseas, which independent fact checkers have said are not true, they're, indeed, a lie," Gillespie told CNN's "State of the Union" program.

"We now know this president will say or do anything to keep the highest office in the land even if it means demeaning the highest office in the land."

Romney became president and chief executive of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics organizing committee when arrangements for the games were in turmoil.

"He took a leave of absence and, in fact... he ended up not going back at all and retired retroactively to February of 1999 as a result," Gillespie said, reiterating that Romney was not running Bain in the ensuing years.

"He was not involved in the management. He was not involved in the day-to-day decisions, and wouldn't have had time."

Obama strategist David Axelrod, appearing on the same program, was unrelenting, repeating the tax avoidance charges and insisting that "Romney's firms were involved in outsourcing" jobs to foreign countries.

Axelrod said that despite Romney's claims of "no involvement with any of the entities Bain was involved in" between 1999 and 2002, he "came back for board meetings."

"The larger point is he was in charge when they bought these firms whose principal mission was to facilitate outsourcing and offshoring."

"What he's saying is, 'well, I left before they actually moved these jobs to China and to Mexico, and I'm not

going to be held responsible for it," Axelrod said.

"If you're the head man, you have to take responsibility, and, you know, he's going to have to explain that to the American people."

## Protege says Berlusconi best placed to win 2013 vote

ROME (AFP) - Flamboyant Italian ex-leader Silvio Berlusconi's protege said on Sunday he believes his former boss is best placed to win the next general election set for early 2013.

Speculation is running high that the billionaire tycoon, who stepped down in November amid a series of scandals as the economy crashed, is planning to announce his political comeback.

Berlusconi "is the strongest to win again," said Angelino Alfano, the head of the People of Freedom (PDL) party.

Alfano, a former justice minister, had said earlier this month that there was a wave of support for Berlusconi to run in the April 2013 election, when he will be 76 years old.

Berlusconi had anointed Alfano as leader of the centre-right PDL to fight next year's election when current Prime Minister Mario Monti stands down, but the younger man said he did not begrudge having to make way for his mentor.

"Silvio Berlusconi gave me the chance to realise my dream," he said. "People say I might be disappointed (by Berlusconi's eventual return) but I believe in a system where personal ambition does not prevail

## Egypt army chief says will not let 'one group' dominate



**Egyptian Field Marshal Mohamed Tantawi (left) greets US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt's army chief said on Sunday the military will not let "one group" dominate the country, intensifying a stand off with the Muslim Brotherhood from which the new president has emerged.

"Egypt will not fall. It is for all Egyptians and not just one group... The armed forces will not allow it," Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi said in statements carried by

the official MENA news agency, in apparent reference to the Brotherhood.

Tantawi -- Egypt's interim ruler after Hosni Mubarak was ousted by a popular uprising -- made the comments hours after talks with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during which she urged the military to support a transition to civilian rule.

Egypt is in the midst of a complex power struggle that is being played out between the newly-elected Islamist president, Mohamed Morsi, and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) headed by Tantawi.

During her visit, Clinton called for the military to help smooth the country's full transition to democracy.

Clinton has repeatedly called on the military to respect the outcome of the elections and told a news conference her talks with Tantawi would focus on "working to support the military's return to a purely national security role."



**INDIA, NEW DELHI : A member of the Sikh community takes part in a protest against the Pakistani government in New Delhi on July 15, 2012. Sikh protesters demanded the immediate release of Indian national Sarabjit Singh who is currently held in a Pakistani prison. Sarabjit Singh is a high-profile prisoner who has spent two decades in solitary confinement on death row in Lahore after being convicted for his role in a string of bombings.(AFP PHOTO)**



## Health & Living

### Facts about HIV/AIDS worldwide

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Here are some key facts and figures on HIV/AIDS, ahead of the International AIDS Conference set to take place in Washington on July 22-27.

#### HIV WORLDWIDE

About 34 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2010, according to the World Health Organization.

#### NEW INFECTIONS

An estimated 2.7 million people worldwide were newly infected with HIV in 2010.

#### TRENDS IN NEW INFECTIONS

Since 2001, annual HIV incidence has fallen in 33 countries, 22 of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

HIV is on the rise in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

#### AIDS DEATHS

A peak of 2.2 million was reached in 2002. An estimated 1.8 million people died of AIDS in 2010.

#### DEATH TRENDS

Between 2001 and 2010, AIDS-related deaths increased more than 11-fold in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (from about 7,800 to 90,000), and more than doubled in East Asia (from 24,000 to 56,000), says the WHO.

In the Middle East and North Africa, AIDS-related mortality also increased by 60 percent (from 22,000 to 35,000).

#### ARV TREATMENT

By the end of 2010, 6.6 million people were taking anti-retroviral drugs in low and middle income countries, or about 47 percent of the 14.2 million people whose immune systems were weakened to the point of needing therapy.

A new, updated figure is expected to be announced on July 18 by UNAIDS.

#### DEATHS PREVENTED

700,000 AIDS-related deaths were prevented worldwide in 2010 by people taking combination antiretroviral therapy.

#### US HIV BAN

The last world AIDS conference to take place in the United States was in 1990 in San Francisco. A US ban on travel to the country by people with HIV kept the conference away. The ban was lifted by the US government in 2008 and 2009.

Sources: WHO Progress Report 2011: Global HIV/AIDS Response; Health Affairs magazine, article by Anthony Fauci and Gregory Folkers, July 2012.



WASHINGTON : Luis Hough swabs his mouth with an HIV test while at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in Washington, DC, July 12, 2012. The testing program started in Washington in October 2010, as a first-of-its-kind attempt in the US to bring HIV testing directly to city residents. The test is quick, painless and yields results within 20 minutes.

AFP PHOTO

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## Cuba says cholera cases rise to 158

(AFP)- The Cuban government broke 11 days of silence Saturday on the country's first cholera outbreak in 130 years, noting the number of cases has risen to 158, though no new deaths were reported.

The Health Ministry denied there had been a "spread" of cholera on the Communist-ruled island, blaming the incidents outside the affected town of Manzanillo on "isolated cases," that would be "treated and studied promptly."

"This outbreak is not spreading," it said in a statement, the second on the outbreak since July 3.

The ministry said the number of confirmed cases of cholera, an intestinal ailment spread through contaminated food and water, had nearly tripled from the 53 previously reported.

Three patients -- aged 66, 70 and 95 and suffering from "a history of chronic disease" -- have died from the outbreak, according to the ministry's last report.

While the authorities had kept their silence on cholera, anti-Castro websites based in Miami and some international media published reports about the spread of the disease, saying there had been numerous deaths.

The pro-government blog Y o h a n d r y (www.yohandry.com) said Wednesday that the outbreak has been contained and denied there had been more deaths, claiming that "not a single case exists in Havana."

Dissidents have criticized the lack of information.

"If anger (against the government) is dangerous, cholera without information transparency is worse," dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez

tweeted.

Health officials have said they believe heavy rains and hot temperatures contributed to the outbreak.

Cholera causes serious diarrhea and vomiting, leading to dehydration. It is easily treatable by rehydration and antibiotics, but the ailment can be fatal if not addressed quickly enough.

The outbreak is a matter of particular concern in Cuba, which prides itself on having one of the region's most admired public health systems, seen as a laudable success for the half-century old communist regime.

The last known person to be infected with cholera in Cuba died of the disease in 1882, when the island was still a Spanish colony.

## Beauty Tips for Women



Skin Care is the secret to beautiful skin. Healthy skin is a gift to mankind too. At times you can go to any reputed parlors for different kind of skin treatments. But parlors are not always the secret to skin care. You need to have a healthy diet, minimize stress, and clean your skin regularly to have a healthy skin. So, skin care becomes a vital part of your life. Also remember to exercise regularly.

Tip:1. **Cleansing:** It is very important to clean your skin regularly.

Tip:2. **Exfoliating:** The other name of exfoliating is known as scrubbing.

Tip:3 **Moisturizing:** After you finish removing the dead skin and extra oil from your skin, you will need to moisturize your skin.

Tip:4 **Sunscreen:** It is very important to apply sunscreen lotion.

Tip:5 **Importance of Water:** Intake of sufficient amount of water is very important.

Tip:6. **Sleep is important:** You must take 7 to 8 hours of sleep regularly.

Tip:7. **Say No to Few Things:** Too much of alcohol - tobacco and fat spoils the skin. Reduce or completely stop consumption of alcohol and tobacco and to much fat.



## Sci-Tech

### 5,000 cut off in landslide as Japan faces more floods



TOKYO (AFP) - More than 5,000 people were cut off by landslides Sunday as more heavy rain and floods were forecast in southwestern Japan, where the death toll from torrential downpours rose to 26.

Television footage showed troops loading relief material such as food, water and medical supplies into military helicopters to send them to mountainous areas in Yame, Fukuoka prefecture in northern Kyushu island.

Local authorities were separately dispatching rescue helicopters to take patients and elderly villagers to hospital from the isolated area, where at least one person was killed, officials said.

More than 5,440 people have been shut away since late Saturday as landslides and fallen trees have cut roads and water supplies in the region, where unprecedented rainfall has fallen since Wednesday.

Rescue operations resumed early Sunday in other affected areas in Kyushu, where at least eight people were still missing after a total of 22 people were confirmed dead in the landslides or floods, officials said.

Public broadcaster NHK showed rescuers continuing

their search, using heavy machinery to remove uprooted trees, boulders and debris, while residents were scooping mud out of houses with shovels.

Some 3,600 people remained ordered or advised to leave their homes in southwest Japan, NHK said, after local authorities lifted similar advice to some 400,000 others by Sunday morning.

The weather eased somewhat Sunday bringing temporary relief, but the Japan Meteorological Agency warned of more heavy rain, landslides and floods on the main southern island of Kyushu.

Rainfall of up to 81.7 centimetres (32.2 inches) has been recorded in Aso, situated at the foot of a volcano, where at least 18 were killed and four others were still missing.

Heavy rainfall was also monitored in Kyoto, some 500 kilometres (310 miles) east of the affected areas in Kyushu, on Sunday, flooding more than 20 houses, news reports said.

About 20 people were temporarily trapped in the city as muddy stream broke a river bank following rainfall of nine centimetres per hour, but they were later rescued safely, the reports added.

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## Russian rocket launches new crew to space

BAIKONUR (AFP) - A Soyuz rocket blasted off with an international crew of three toward the International Space Station on Sunday in a mission testing the reliability of Russia's crisis-prone space programme.

NASA's Sunita Williams and Japan's Akihiko Hoshide and Yuri Malenchenko of Russia started their journey on top of the Soyuz-FG under the open skies of the Kazakh steppe on schedule and without a hitch.

The trio gave big thumbs up after the needle-shaped craft pierced a thin layering of white clouds and safely reached orbit about nine minutes later.

Russia's Roscosmos space programme chief Vladimir Popovkin told reporters that he spoke briefly to the crew members a few minutes into their journey and "They feel fine. I have no doubts that

everything will go well."

The final launch of a US satellite in July 2011 left nations dependent on the reliability of Russia's Soviet-era space

achievements while governments and private companies scramble for new ways to launch humans to the station and beyond.



**CANCUN, Mexico:** In a handout photo taken by WildAid, US Actress Maggie Q swims with an endangered whale shark off Cancun, Mexico. As an ambassador for international conservation group WildAid, Maggie Q was in Cancun last week to publicize the plight of sharks threatened by demand for shark fin soup in the same week that China announced a ban on shark fin from all official banquets.

AFP PHOTO

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## ACROSS

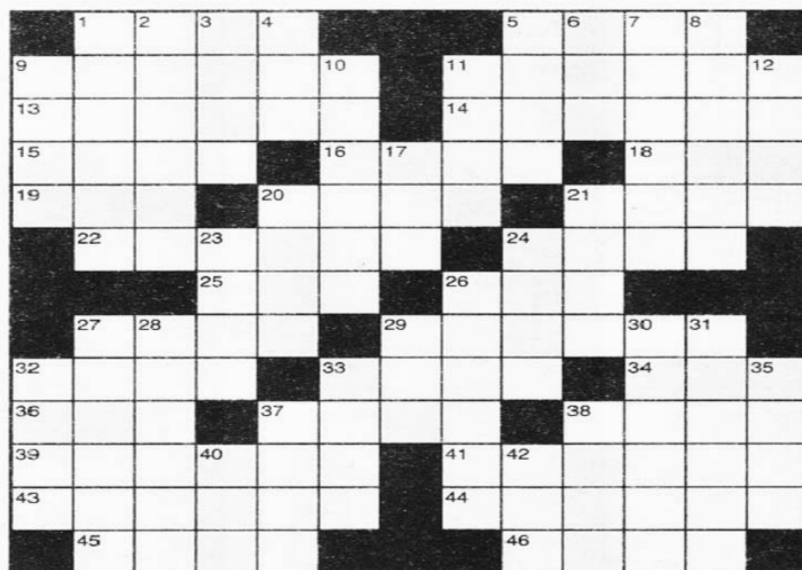
1. Fr. canonized women
5. Leather strap
9. Fabric fragments
11. Plentiful
13. Town crier's cry (2 wds.)
14. Word on a picket sign
15. Duty
16. Calendar squares
18. "X-Files" org.
19. Daly of "Wings"
20. Old cloths
21. Onionlike vegetable
22. Atlantic City feature
24. Tupperware tops
25. Dorothy's aunt et al.
26. Director Prince
27. Top poker pair
29. Gatorade ingredient
32. Thailand's old name
33. It could be good or bad
34. Silent consent
36. Ornamental

- vase
37. Farm sound
38. Mayberry boy
39. Winner
41. Locomotive
43. Say "achoo!"
44. Comedienne Phyllis
45. Happiness
46. Hive dwellers

## DOWN

1. Picturesque
2. Severe upset
3. Hearing items
4. James Bond, e.g.
5. Boycotts
6. Fantasy forest friend
7. Lazed about
8. Sioux and Choctaw
9. Fired a gun
10. Family cars
11. Lombardo and Kibbe
12. Estrada of "CHiPs"
17. Part of history
20. Margins
21. "Darling \_\_\_\_"
23. Give the impression

24. "Shane" star
26. Caught a fish
27. Broadcasting
28. Nullify
29. Bart, to Homer
30. Deconstruct a stack
31. Des \_\_\_\_
32. Suburban gas-guzzlers (abbr.)
33. Quicksand
35. Gentle animal
37. Leak slowly
38. Eye coyly
40. Ess follower
42. Penpoint



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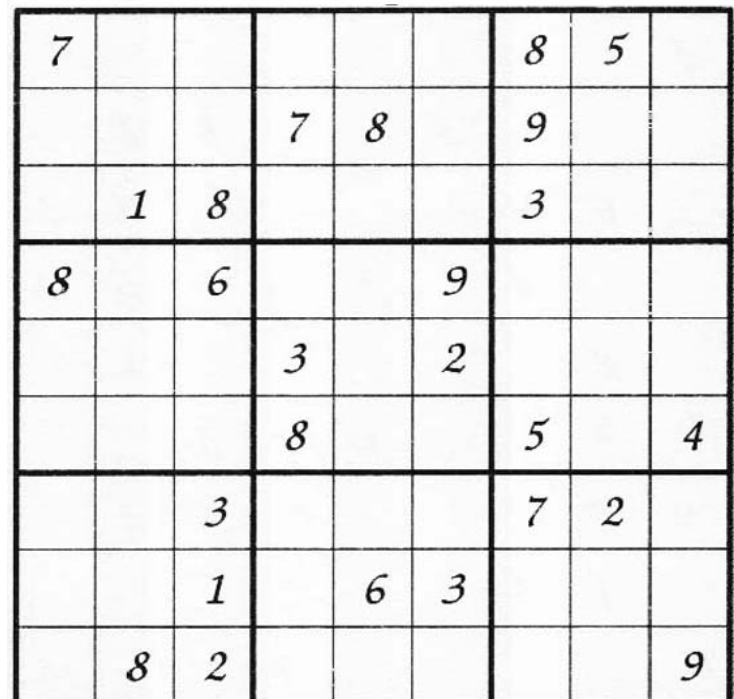
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	8	1	4	5	2	8	9
5	8	4	9	2	1	4	6
9	2	4	8	6	1	5	3
4	6	5	9	1	8	4	2
8	4	9	2	5	4	6	1
5	1	2	6	4	9	5	8
2	9	5	2	6	8	1	4
2	4	6	1	8	4	5	9
1	5	8	4	9	6	2	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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## Finance

### Deutsche Bank to cooperate with investigators on Libor probe

BERLIN Germany (AFP) - Deutsche Bank wants to cooperate with European investigators probing the manipulation of interbank interest rates to limit damage to its reputation and bottom line, a newspaper said Sunday.

Germany's biggest bank has asked the European Commission and Swiss authorities to give it the status of cooperating witness in their investigation of the rigging of the Libor interbank rate, now at

the centre of a global financial scandal, Der Spiegel reported.

"Anxiety currently reigns within Deutsche Bank," a source close to the bank told the German weekly.

Deutsche Bank is one of some 20 banks accused of manipulating the key lending rate by lying in their input for the Libor, which underpins rates on a wide range of lending from mortgages to credit cards.

British bank Barclays has

already been fined £290 million (360 million euros, \$450 million) as part of a probe into the scandal by British and US authorities.

The European Commission has already granted Barclays and Swiss bank UBS the status of cooperating witnesses, Der Spiegel reported, saying the Commission had decided to grant total immunity to the first bank to cooperate and lighter penalties for two other banks if they assisted in the probe.

### UAE launches pipeline skirting Iran-threatened Hormuz

DUBAI (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates on Sunday inaugurated a pipeline to pump oil from east coast terminals, bypassing the strategic Strait of Hormuz which Iran has threatened to shut down, state-run WAM news agency reported.

The first shipment of 500,000 barrels of oil from the Habshan fields in Abu Dhabi emirate were pumped through the pipeline to Fujairah oil terminal on the Gulf of Oman, where it was loaded

on a tanker headed for Pakistan.

Energy Minister Mohammad bin Dhaen al-Hameli attended a ceremony in Fujairah for the launch.

Fears of a closure of the Strait of Hormuz have intensified amid repeated threats by Tehran to close the strategic outlet in retaliation for Western efforts to choke off its oil exports to rein in Iran's nuclear programme.

Media reports in Tehran earlier this month said Iranian MPs endorsed a bill banning Europe-bound tankers from using the Strait of Hormuz to punish EU nations which have slapped sanctions on Iran.

On Thursday, US officials said the United States has deployed a fleet of robot subs in the Gulf to prevent Iran from blocking the strategic Strait of Hormuz with mines in case of a crisis.

### RIM hit with \$147.2 mn patent payout

OTTAWA (AFP) - A California jury has ordered BlackBerry maker Research In Motion to pay \$147.2 million in damages for infringing on a patent for remote management of wireless devices, RIM announced Saturday.

"RIM is disappointed by the outcome and is evaluating all legal options," the Canadian company said in a statement.

Edison, New Jersey-based software firm Mformation sued RIM in 2008 in US District Court in San Francisco, claiming it had disclosed details of its technology to RIM during licensing discussions.

After choosing to not buy a license, RIM modified its software to include Mformation's patented systems allowing companies to manage workers' mobile devices from an enterprise server, Mformation said in its complaint.

RIM denied any wrongdoing and said the patents were invalid.



Current as 07/15/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.69	2.74	2.80
Switzerland	CHF	180.50	181.22	182.02
Netherlands	EUR	215.06	217.02	219.20
Sweden	SEK	24.32	25.04	25.84
Denmark	DKK	28.20	28.92	29.72
Norway	NOK	28.19	28.91	29.71
Japan (per 100)	JPY	222.63	224.66	226.92

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### Spain needs aid for more than just banks: Bundesbank chief

BERLIN (AFP) - European assistance to ailing Spain should target the country's entire economy and not just the banking sector, the head of Germany's central bank said in an interview published Saturday.

"The banks' balance sheets are a reflection of the overall economy," Bundesbank chief Jens Weidmann told newspaper Boersen Zeitung.

Weidmann said recent announcements by the Spanish government, financial problems in the country's regions and its high unemployment rate -- a record 24.4 percent in the first quarter of 2012 -- show Spain still has major issues to resolve.

Spanish Prime Minister

Mariano Rajoy on Wednesday announced a 65-billion-euro (\$80-billion) austerity package demanded by Brussels in exchange for rescuing Spanish banks with bailout loans of up to 100 billion euros.

Eurozone finance ministers agreed this week to release an initial payout of 30 billion euros by the end of the month and a second of around 45 billion euros in mid-November.

Three eurozone countries -- Greece, Portugal and Ireland -- have so far received bailouts from their partners. Spain will be the fourth to do so, but the first to have aid injected into its banking sector rather than the government itself.

#### SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

STOW SID BAG  
SIRE RODE LIE  
SIA IRON URN  
EVADE ILES  
OWNER CSA  
NOT CATHEDRAL  
RAD NRA DEMO  
ELECTING CEO  
PHI AGENT  
RATE BOGUS  
HAL SHOW ISAW  
SHA TUNE DELI  
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## 'Ice Age' sweeps in and tops US box office



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Ice Age: Continental Drift" entered at the top of the North American box office this weekend, knocking "The Amazing Spider-Man" off the summit, industry estimates showed Sunday.

The 3-D computer-animated adventure comedy flick, featuring the voices of Queen Latifah and Denis Leary, took \$46 million during its first Friday through Sunday run on the big screen, according to movie tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The latest Spider-Man effort, starring Andrew Garfield, was in second place with \$35

million in weekend takings, and cheeky teddy bear comedy "Ted," took third, down one place on the week, with \$22.15 million.

"Brave," the Pixar studio's 3-D fairytale about a Scottish princess trying to rescue her mother from an evil witch, took \$10.70 million in its fourth week, also slipping one place to lie fourth on the chart.

"Magic Mike," starring Channing Tatum and Matthew McConaughey as male strippers, held on to fifth place with \$9.03 million in takings, and Oliver Stone's drama "Savages" was in sixth, down two places, with \$8.74 million.

Tyler Perry's "Madea's Witness Protection" took seventh slot with \$5.6 million in sales, while "Katy Perry: Part of Me" -- which gives a glimpse into the pop star's life on stage and off -- held eighth place with \$3.74 million.

Ninth went to "Moonrise Kingdom," the latest from director Wes Anderson starring Bill Murray, Bruce Willis and Edward Norton. The indie coming-of-age film took in \$3.67 million.

"Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," rounded out the top 10, slipping from last week's seventh place on earnings of \$3.5 million.

## Springsteen, McCartney silenced at marathon London gig



**Bruce Springsteen and Steven Van Zandt**

LONDON (AFP) - Ageing rockers Bruce Springsteen and Paul McCartney were silenced on Saturday night after over-running at a gig in London's Hyde Park.

Ex-Beatle McCartney had joined Springsteen onstage at the end of the US star's headline slot at Hard Rock Calling, but both found their microphones cut off before they could thank the fans.

Springsteen, 62, had exceeded the festival's time limit after belting out hits such as "Born in the USA" and "Because the Night" for three hours.

McCartney, 70, joined him at the end to sing Beatles hits "I Saw Her Standing There" and "Twist and Shout," but organisers pulled the plug before they could address the 65,000-strong crowd and they left the stage in silence.

Steven Van Zandt, who plays guitar with Springsteen's E Street Band, took to Twitter to vent his frustration.

"Seriously, when did England become a police state?" he wrote. "It didn't ruin the great night. But when I'm jam-

ming with McCartney don't bug me!"

London mayor Boris Johnson also said the musicians should have been allowed to continue their set.

Springsteen, who is renowned for his long performances, had invited Rage Against the Machine guitarist Tom Morello on stage for two numbers, and fellow US singer John Fogerty joined him for another track.

He also delighted a fan who was holding up a banner asking Springsteen to play an obscure number from his back collection, and listing all the concerts around the world where he had requested it.

Spotting the man, whose song of choice was "Take 'Em As They Come," Springsteen said: "Tonight, my friend, this is your lucky night. You're going to hear this damn thing."

Paul Simon headlines at Hard Rock Calling on Sunday.



PARIS (AFP) - France's far-right National Front said Sunday it plans to sue Madonna over a video at a concert in France. The video, which served as a backdrop for Madonna's performance of the song "Nobody Knows Me", flashed a picture of Le Pen's forehead bearing a swastika, followed by an image resembling Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. There was an audible gasp from the audience at the concert in the Stade de France in a Paris suburb on Saturday when the video appeared as part of Madonna's stage show. Le Pen, who was a candidate in the French presidential election in May, had already warned the US superstar she was mulling legal action after the video was shown at Tel Aviv gig in May when Madonna kicked off her world tour.



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## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and

drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious,

connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge



offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet

services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



## Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset



Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La



Risotto Frutti de Mare

Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations

well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, [www.aruba-latratortoria.com](http://www.aruba-latratortoria.com), where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.





# Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



## Somali athletes defeat hardship for shot at glory

### In sinking economy, Made in Portugal

#### kayaks float on

VILA DO CONDE (AFP) - The "Made in Portugal" label will dominate the waters at the London Olympics, with the country's kayak-canoe industry prospering despite a floundering economy.

Of the 200 crafts at the Games that begin July 27, three-quarters were built by Portugal's Nelo, the Olympics' official supplier since the 2004 Athens edition and a rare success story out of an economy in deep water.

As Portugal grapples with a recession dating back to late 2010, sales are expected to grow by a quarter this year for this company from the northern town of Vila do Conde founded by a Portuguese kayaker in 1978 in a moment of pluck.

Nelo, named after Ramos' moniker, now exports the majority of its canoes and kayaks to a roster of 100 countries, with this year's production slated to reach a personal record of 3,000 watercrafts.

As London gears up for the Olympics, Nelo's 80-plus employees are tirelessly putting the finishing touches on last orders for the games.

In a spacious factory smelling of paint and carbon fiber, employees tweak watercraft, including the kayak of German champion Ronald Rauhe and the canoe of France's Mathieu Goubel.

At the last Olympics in Beijing in 2008, 20 athletes paddling Nelo's watercrafts walked away with medals. This year, Ramos is hoping for more.

The secret to its success, according to Nelo CEO Santos, is a "boldness" that's in stark contrast to their "completely dormant competitors" unable to diversify their models and provide boats adapted to each athlete.



Young Somali athletes exercise in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) - Running from war, dodging bullets and defying Al-Qaeda linked Islamist insurgents who ordered them stop: Somalia's determined Olympic hopefuls have overcome challenges few other athletes could even imagine.

The training facilities are pock-marked with bullet holes from years of brutal conflict, but as the four athletes -- two men and two women -- stride out in training, they offer a glimmer of hope for the war-ravaged nation.

Multiple governments have failed to create stability in the Horn of Africa nation, wracked by over two decades of civil war, let alone form a competitive sports team.

Yet coach Ahmed Ali Abikar, who himself ran for his country, believes the team could prove a point to the world about Somalia, which so often appears on international news only for war, famine, drought or piracy.

Somalia, like all nations, has two guaranteed slots in athletics, one man and one woman. For the anarchic nation, just having their two athletes fly Somalia's flag in London will be an achievement -- but Abikar has higher hopes.

"I'm confident that those

we choose to go to London to represent the country in the Olympic Games will come home -- we hope -- with very good results," Abikar said.

Facilities are a far cry from the first class treatment that

characterizes life for star competitors from other nations. Years of war left training facilities in ruins.

"We are suffering from hardships, constant war, lack of finance and hampered by poor facilities," said Abikar in the team's base, a former primary school abandoned during fighting between rival militia forces in the capital Mogadishu. "We have no personal doctors and in case the athletes get sick, they have to seek general treatment in Mogadishu," he added.

The athletes, aged between 18 and 20, have spent the last six months in camp, but life has been far from easy. The two female athletes were often forced to exercise indoors after threats by extremist Shebab in-

surgents.

The two train wearing tracksuit trousers, short-sleeved T-shirts and a headscarf, in a country where women normally wear voluminous dresses that cover them from wrist to toe and billowing veils.

"Our goal is bigger than whatever challenges that come our way," Bashir added.

Yet things are improving in Somalia: years after leaving due to rising violence, 19-year old Mohamed Hassan Mohamed returned to compete for the country of his birth.

The father of one fled to Yemen in 2009 to escape incessant waves of violence.

Mohamed says he hopes to put up a performance in London to match that of Abdi Bile Abdi, Somalia's legendary runner who became the 1,500 metre world champion in 1987.

The athletes will face a tough challenge when they travel to London, but Somali Athletics Federation deputy chief Kadijo Adan Dahir said she was confident that having come so far, they can overcome the hurdles ahead.

## Davis to replace Griffin on USA Olympic team



LAS VEGAS (AFP) - US college star Anthony Davis has been named to the Olympic men's basketball team, replacing Los Angeles Clippers centre Blake Griffin who is out with a knee injury.

USA Basketball announced the addition of Davis, who was originally cut from the team and then asked to return after Griffin suffered an injury to his left knee during practice on Wednesday.

Griffin underwent an MRI on Thursday and was diagnosed with a torn meniscus which will require surgery to repair.

The move adds another major injury setback to an American squad of NBA stars already hurt by injuries to Orlando centre Dwight Howard, Miami stars Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade and Chicago's 2011 NBA Most Valuable Player Derrick Rose.

The USA, which is chasing its second consecutive Olympic gold medal, still has Miami's NBA finals MVP LeBron James, Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant and his Oklahoma City teammates Russell Westbrook and James Harden, and Chris Paul of the Clippers.

But the loss of big men, Griffin, Bosh and Howard, leaves Tyson Chandler as the Americans only true centre. Davis, who was the first-overall pick of New Orleans in last month's NBA entry draft, has yet to play a game in the NBA.

Davis scored nine points in a 113-59 exhibition win Thursday night over the Dominican Republic who failed to make the London Games.

The Americans has spend the week-end training in Washington before playing an exhibition game against Brazil today.

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## Tour de France 14th stage

FOIX (AFP) - Spaniard Luis Leon Sanchez handed his stricken Rabobank team a welcome boost by soloing to victory on a Tour de France stage Sunday marked by mass punctures after spectators threw nails on the road.

The end of the 191 km 14th stage race was brought to life in equally dramatic style by a rash of punctures suffered in the peloton after nail-throwing spectators decided to liven up the final climb of the day.

Yellow jersey holder Bradley Wiggins survived potential disaster to retain his overnight lead of 2:05 on Sky teammate Chris Froome with Italian Vincenzo Nibali of

Liquigas still in third at 2:23.

For a while, it looked as though Wiggins would take more time off challenger and defending champion Cadel Evans after the Australian lost over two minutes when he suffered the first of three punctures at the summit.

Amid farcical scenes, he lost time waiting for a spare wheel and then his team manager Jim Ochowicz slipped into a ditch while helping the Australian a second time.

Wiggins' Sky team, however, did the sporting thing by instructing the peloton to sit up and ride at a pace that, eventually, allowed Evans to rejoin the bunch.

It later transpired that "one or two" spectators, according to race director Jean-Francois Pescheux, had thrown small nails on to the road.

Even Wiggins had to change bike, the Englishman signalling to his team car to stop as he got a quick replacement.

It left Evans in a desperate chase with his BMC team to

catch Wiggins' leading group, although he admitted he had no idea what had gone on ahead of him.

Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme was quick to condemn the incident.

On the first of an eventual three days in the Pyrenees, Spaniard Sanchez and his fellow escapees were left untouched by the nail-throwers.

He had been part of an 11-man break which built a 16-minute lead on the peloton and after counter-attacking Frenchman Sandy Casar on the descent Sanchez made a decisive move with just over 11 km to race.

One of only four of Rabobank's nine starters to have survived the race so far, he went on unchallenged to finish 47sec ahead of Slovakian Peter Sagan (Liquigas), who grabbed some precious points for his green jersey bid.

Wiggins' group came over the finish 18 minutes in arrears.

### MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
YANKEES	54	34	.614	--	WASHINGTON	51	35	.593	--
BALTIMORE	46	42	.523	8.0	ATLANTA	49	39	.557	3.0
TAMPA	46	42	.523	8.0	NY METS	46	43	.517	6.5
TORONTO	45	44	.506	9.5	MIAMI	42	46	.477	10.0
BOSTON	44	44	.500	10.0	PHILADELPHIA	38	51	.427	14.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CHICAGO	49	39	.557	--	CINCINNATI	49	38	.563	--
DETROIT	46	43	.517	3.5	PITTSBURG	49	39	.557	0.5
CLEVELAND	45	43	.511	4.0	ST. LOUIS	46	42	.523	3.5
KANSAS	38	49	.437	10.5	MILWAUKEE	42	46	.477	7.5
MINNESOTA	36	51	.414	12.5	CHICAGO	36	52	.409	13.5
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	53	35	.602	--	HOUSTON	33	55	.375	16.5
LA ANGELES	49	40	.551	4.5	SAN FRANCISCO	48	40	.545	--
OAKLAND	45	43	.511	8.0	LA DODGERS	48	41	.539	0.5
SEATTLE	37	52	.416	16.5	ARIZONA	42	46	.477	6.0
					SAN DIEGO	35	54	.393	13.5
					COLORADO	34	53	.391	13.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ



SHANGAI (AFP) - Didier Drogba was given a hero's welcome as he arrived in China on Saturday to start a two-and-a-half-year contract that is expected to make him one of football's highest-paid players. Hundreds of fans, many clad in "Drogba 11" shirts, greeted the former Chelsea star at Shanghai's Pudong airport, some carrying flowers, others brandishing his name in English on placards and many jostling to touch him. "What I experienced at the airport this morning was unbelievable. Even when I was at Chelsea I never experienced anything like this," the 34-year-old told reporters at a press conference to launch his career with Shanghai Shenhua. The Ivory Coast striker sealed a deal that Chinese and British media have said is worth 200,000 pounds (\$314,000) a week, making him the highest-paid player in China and in the top bracket globally. But he insisted money was not the reason he had moved to a side languishing near the bottom of China's Super League, just weeks after he scored the penalty that won Chelsea the European Champions League. "China is a big sports country and it is a big challenge. For me it would have been easy to go to another team in Europe but I chose China because of the challenge," he said. The Chinese Football Association believes the domestic game, which has endured years of corruption and repeated failures by the national team, is set to take off thanks to the infusion of expensive talent such as Drogba.



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## Tennis: Federer reaches record 287 weeks on top of the world



PARIS (AFP) - Roger Federer, already the holder of a record 17 Grand Slam titles, will reach another landmark on today when he celebrates an unprecedented 287th week as world number one.

With the Olympics and US Open fast approaching, Federer shows no sign of his passion for the game waning despite being the second oldest man after Andre Agassi to hold the world number one ranking.



Roger Federer, celebrates his first Wimbledon win in 2003

The Swiss legend, who turns 31 in August, had pulled level with Pete Sampras's record of 286 weeks when he reclaimed top spot after a two-year absence following his seventh Wimbledon title last week.

"I'm so happy I'm at the age I am right now, because I had such a great run and I know there's still more possible," said Federer.

"To enjoy it right now, it's very different than when I was 20 or 25. I'm at a much more

stable place in my life. I wouldn't want anything to change. So this is very, very special right now."

Federer holds a 75-point lead over world number two Novak Djokovic and is guaranteed to hold the top ranking heading into the London Olympics.

He now has a tour-best five titles in 2012, including his 20th Masters crown in Madrid in the run-up to the French Open.

Federer has compiled a 63-6 match record since last year's US Open, going 17-0 at the end of 2011 and is 46-6 this

season.

Despite equalling Sampras's record of seven Wimbledon titles, Federer believes it wasn't just his victory at the All England Club over Andy Murray in the final that enabled him to return to the top.

He believes it was due to a series of highs and lows, notably a heartbreaking loss to Djokovic in the US Open semi-finals last September where he had been two sets to love ahead with match points.

"I think it was a time where I just had to believe that things were going to turn around for me," said Federer.

"I think when I came back to Basel (last autumn), which was a home tournament, things obviously changed for me to winning ways again.

"Then the confidence rose as I went to Paris and also to London (where he won the World Tour Finals). I think this is when I realised a lot is possible in 2012."

Federer first took the world number one spot in February 2004 and held it until August 2008.

He reclaimed it in July 2009 before being deposed by Rafael Nadal after the 2010 French Open.

## Olympics safe despite security blunder: Coe

LONDON (AFP) - The chairman of the London 2012 Organizing Committee Sebastian Coe said Sunday that a recruitment shortfall by private security firm G4S would not jeopardise the safety of the Olympic games.

G4S chief executive Nick Buckles on Saturday said he was "very sorry" that 3,500 troops had to be drafted in just two weeks before the Games, after the firm admitted it could not provide the total 10,000 guards it had pledged.

"I'm in the Olympic Park every day, we've got 4,000 trained G4S personnel in the park and they've been there for some years and they've been doing a spectacularly good job," he added.

The former Olympic gold medalist promised a "prudent and judicious plan" was in place.

Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt said the government had the contingency plan drawn up "for many months".

Speaking publicly for the



first time since details of the fiasco emerged Wednesday, Buckles confirmed that G4S, one of the world's largest security firms, faces losses of up to £50 million (\$78 million, 64 million euros) over the blunder.

Buckles apologised directly to the troops involved, some of whom were due to go on leave after tours in Afghanistan.

G4S was originally contracted to provide the Games with 2,000 personnel for £86 million, but this was increased in December to

10,400 while the value of the contract more than trebled.

On Thursday, the defence ministry announced that G4S had been unable to recruit enough guards and that 3,500 soldiers would step in to fill the shortfall, bringing the total number of troops involved in the Games to 17,000.

Britain is deploying a total force of 40,000 troops, police, guards and volunteers for the Games, in its biggest ever peacetime security operation.